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IN 2446497
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REPORT CLASS - SECRET - UNINTEL - ORCON

POLITICAL MATTERS

CITE
DIST 10 MAY 79

COUNTRY: ARGENTINA/FRANCE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

SUBJECT: PLANS FOR IMPROVING FRENCH - ARGENTINE RELATIONS,
INCLUDING RELEASE BY ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT OF TWO
FRENCH PRISONERS

8025x1

1. AS PART OF A PLAN TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND ARGENTINA, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO RELEASE TWO ARGENTINE-FRENCH DUAL NATIONALS AT THE REQUEST OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT. THEY ARE VIVIANE JACOB, WHO WAS ARRESTED IN DECEMBER 1975 AND CONDEMNED TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON, AND JULIO PIUMATO, WHO WAS ARRESTED IN JUNE 1976, AND CONDEMNED TO SEVEN YEARS IN PRISON. THE PLAN CALLS FOR VIVIANE JACOB TO BE RELEASED SOMETIME IN LATE APRIL OR MAY 1979 AND FOR PIUMATO TO BE RELEASED BY THE END OF 1979. PIUMATO'S CASE IS SOMEWHAT MORE COMPLICATED BECAUSE HE WAS TRIED BY A MILITARY TRIBUNAL. COMMENT:

VIVIANE JACOB WAS ARRESTED IN

Declassified Case: 17X- 54733 Date: 10-24-2013

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DECEMBER 1975 AND CONDMNED TO FOUR YEARS IN PRISON ON CHARGES
OF BEING AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY
(ERP).

2. THE AGREEMENT TO RELEASE THESE TWO PRISONERS WAS REACHED
IN A PRIVATE MEETING BETWEEN LT. GENERAL ROBERTO V I O L A,
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY, AND MAURICE X P A P O N,
FRENCH BUDGET MINISTER DURING THE LATTER'S APRIL 1979 VISIT
TO ARGENTINA. ONE OF PAPON'S AIDES REQUESTED THE MEETING BE
HELD BECAUSE THE FRENCH THOUGHT THE VISIT WAS GOING BADLY.
PAPON THOUGHT THAT HE HAD BEEN SNUBBED WHEN JOSE ALFREDO
M A R T I N E Z D E H O Z, MINISTER OF ECONOMY, KEPT HIM
WAITING FOR TWENTY MINUTES; THE ARGENTINES HAD NOT MADE ANY
CONCRETE COMMITMENTS TO THE FRENCH ON A U.S. 800 MILLION
DOLLAR CONTRACT FOR AN OIL PIPELINE IN SOUTHERN ARGENTINA;
AND THE ARGENTINES HAD NOT APPEARED WILLING TO RELEASE FRENCH
PRISONERS AS THEY HAD IN AUGUST 1978.

3. ANOTHER PART OF THE PLAN TO IMPROVE FRENCH-ARGENTINE
RELATIONS WILL BE A TRIP BY A HIGH-RANKING ARGENTINE
COMMERCIAL DELEGATION TO FRANCE IN JUNE 1979. MEMBERS
OF THE DELEGATION WILL INCLUDE FREDERICK C A M B A,
SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS, DANIEL
B R U N E L L A, SECRETARY OF ENERGY, AND LUIS G O T E L L I,
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF BUSINESSMEN. TWO MORE FRENCH
DELEGATIONS ARE TO VISIT ARGENTINA IN JULY AND AUGUST.

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FRANCE IS INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING A "LATIN BLOC" TRADING
GROUP MADE UP OF NATIONS GENERALLY HAVING A "LATIN" TRADITION,
AND SEES ARGENTINA AS BEING THE VANGUARD NATION IN LATIN
AMERICA. OTHER POSSIBLE MEMBERS WOULD BE ITALY, PORTUGAL,
GREECE, ROMANIA AND THE PHILLIPINES.

4. [] COMMENT: PAPON'S VISIT TO ARGENTINA WAS PART
OF A PREVIOUSLY REACHED ARRANGEMENT TO IMPROVE FRENCH-ARGENTINE
RELATIONS THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF COMMERCIAL DELEGATIONS
AND ARGENTINE AGREEMENT TO RELEASE FRENCH NATIONALS. []

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[REDACTED]

Classified by [REDACTED]
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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REPORT CLASS - ~~SECRET~~ - UNINTEL - [REDACTED]

POLITICAL MATTERS

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

CITE [REDACTED]

DIST 04 MAY 79

COUNTRY: ARGENTINA

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

LT. GENERAL ROBERTO V I O L A WILL BE NEXT PRESIDENT
OF ARGENTINA [REDACTED]

E025x1

1. [REDACTED]

LT. GENERAL

ROBERTO V I O L A, ARMY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, WILL BE THE NEXT
PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINA. [REDACTED] VIOLA AS

EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT AND CAPABLE AS CONTRASTED TO PRESIDENT
JORGE RAFAEL V I D E L A, WHO HE CONSIDERS INDECISIVE,

UNINTELLIGENT BUT AMBITIOUS. THE JUNTA, WITH THE SUPPORT

OF THE NAVY, WILL SELECT VIOLA IN JULY 1980. THE CURRENT MAY 17 1979

PLAN IS THAT VIOLA WOULD BE THE LAST PRESIDENT SELECTED BY

THE JUNTA AND THAT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD DURING

HIS TERM. VIOLA HAS AGREED TO THIS PLAN, ALTHOUGH [REDACTED] HE

HAS SAID THAT THE MILITARY WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE GOVERNING

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UNTIL AT LEAST 1987.

2. [REDACTED] VIOLA'S PRIVATE COMMENTS

ARE DESIGNED TO MOLLIFY SENIOR ARMY LEADERS WHO FAVOR AN EXTENDED
PERIOD OF MILITARY RULE. [REDACTED] MAJOR GENERALS

ALBANO ~~X~~ A R G U I N D E G U Y, MINISTER OF INTERIOR;

CARLOS GUILLERMO ~~X~~ S U A R E Z ~~X~~ M A S O N, CHIEF OF STAFF

OF THE ARMY; LUCIANO ~~X~~ M E N E N D E Z, COMMANDER OF THE THIRD

CORPS AND LEOPOLDO FORTUNATO ~~X~~ G A L T I E R I, COMMANDER OF

THE FIRST CORPS. [REDACTED] THAT VIOLA'S DECISION TO

STEP DOWN AT THE END OF 1979 COULD BE MODIFIED AND HIS TERM CAN,

AND PROBABLY WILL, BE EXTENDED UNTIL JULY 1980 WHEN THE JUNTA WILL

SELECT THE NEXT PRESIDENT. [REDACTED]

B025x1

Argentina

3. [REDACTED] BY 1982 OR 1983 WHEN ELECTIONS

WOULD BE HELD, AN ANTI-ELECTION FACTION IN THE ARMY WOULD NOT

BE ABLE TO MOUNT AN EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION. AT PRESENT THERE

IS NO ONE PERSON IN THE ARMY WITH ENOUGH PRESTIGE OR ENOUGH

OF A FOLLOWING TO MOUNT SUCH A CAMPAIGN. [REDACTED]

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MAJOR GENERAL ANTONIO DOMINGO ~~X~~ B U S S I, COMMANDER OF THE
BORDER POLICE (GENDARMARIA) IS THE ONLY OFFICER WITH THE
POTENTIAL FOR RECOGNIZING SUCH A LEADER. HE IS HOWEVER, A VIOLA
LOYALIST AND WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO MOUNT AN ANTI-ELECTION
CAMPAIGN. BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSE MARIA ~~X~~ V I L L A ~~X~~ R E A L,
DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE FIRST CORPS, HAS PRESIDENTIAL
AMBITIONS AND MIGHT OPPOSE ELECTIONS. COLONEL MIGUEL
~~X~~ M A L L E A ~~X~~ G I L, UNDERSECRETARY FOR INSTITUTIONAL
RELATIONS IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY, MIGHT ALSO OPPOSE
ELECTIONS.

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Argentina

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REPORT CLASS - ~~SECRET~~ - [REDACTED]

CITE [REDACTED]
DIST 04 MAY 79

COUNTRY: ARGENTINA

SUBJECT: INTENTION OF MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

TO SET UP AN INDEPENDENT POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE NETWORK

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SET UP A POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE NETWORK FOR THE MINISTRY
OF THE INTERIOR AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MAKING THE REQUEST ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTER,
MAJOR GENERAL ALBANO HARGUINDEGUY. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] HARGUINDEGUY BELIEVES THAT SUCH A SERVICE
IS NECESSARY BECAUSE HE IS CONVINCED THAT HE IS BECOMING
POLITICALLY ISOLATED AND THAT ALL PROVINCIAL LEVEL POLITICAL

MAY 18 1979

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INFORMATION IS BEING CHanneled THROUGH THE VARIOUS ARMY CORPS
HEADQUARTERS TO ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN BUENOS AIRES, THUS BY-
PASSING HIM. HARGUINDEGUY WANTS TO BE KEPT INFORMED BY A
SELECTED NETWORK OF HIGH LEVEL PROVINCIAL FIGURES. WHEN
QUESTIONED [REDACTED] REGARDING FUNDS AVAIL-
ABLE FOR MOUNTING SUCH AN OPERATION, THE MINISTRY OFFICIAL
REPLIED THAT MONEY WOULD BE NO PROBLEM.

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4. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ARMY COMMANDER-

IN-CHIEF, LT. GENERAL ROBKERTO VIOLA, IS ATTEMPTING TO IS-
OLATE HARGUENDEGUY AND LESSEN HIS INFLUENCE AS MINISTER OF
THE INTERIOR. VIOLA'S REASONS FOR THIS ARE THAT HARGUENDEGUY
IS IN FAVOR OF ELIMINATING THE CENTRAL UNION AUTHORITY OF
ARGENTINE LABOR UNIONS VIA THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
LAW AND THAT AS A HARDLINER, HE HAD OPPOSED VIOLA'S POLICIES
ON THE BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE. VIOLA'S FIRST STEP IN LESSEN-
ING HARGUINDEGUY'S INFLUENCE HAS BEEN TO REQUIRE PROVINCIAL
GOVERNORS TO REPORT TO CORPS COMMANDERS IN THEIR REGIONS
RATHER THAN TO THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR. THIS WAS BEGUN
IN THE FIFTH CORPS REGION IN APRIL 1978 WITH A MEETING BE-
TWEEN GOVERNORS OF THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES AND FIFTH CORPS
COMMANDER, MAJOR-GENERAL ANDRES V A G U E R O. WHEN VIOLA

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ASKED LUCIANO B. ~~X~~ M E N E N D E Z, THIRD CORPS COMMANDER,
TO HOLD A SIMILAR MEETING, HE REFUSED. (SOURCE COMMENT: AS
A PROMINENT HARDLINER, MENENDEZ'S REFUSAL WAS PROBABLY A
GESTURE OF SUPPORT FOR HARGUINDEGUY).

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